

10-Day Afghanistan Grand Cultural & Heritage Tour

Afghanistan | 10 days / 9 nights | From USD 1,599 per person

Discover the history, culture, architecture, ancient civilizations, traditional markets, and breathtaking landscapes of Afghanistan on an unforgettable 10-day journey through Kabul, Ghazni, Kandahar, Herat, and Bamyan.

ROUTE

Kabul > Ghazni > Kandahar > Herat > Bamyan > Band-e-Amir

HIGHLIGHTS

- Explore the historic capital of Kabul
- Discover the ancient city of Ghazni
- Experience the cultural heritage of Kandahar
- Visit the landmarks of the Durrani Empire
- Explore the historic city of Herat
- Discover Silk Road and Timurid heritage
- Visit the Bamyan Valley and Buddha niches
- Experience the breathtaking landscapes of Band-e-Amir
- Travel through Afghanistan's spectacular mountain passes
- Explore traditional bazaars, handicrafts, carpets, and gemstones
- Experience Afghan culture and everyday life with local guidance

DAY BY DAY (10 DAYS)

Day 1: Arrival & Kabul City Tour

- Welcome to Afghanistan!
- Upon arrival in Kabul, our professional tour guide and driver will meet you at the airport and transfer you to your hotel. After check-in, your guide will provide a brief orientation about the tour. Depending on your arrival time, breakfast or lunch will be arranged.
- You will have time for currency exchange and a visit to a local tailor shop to experience traditional Afghan clothing.
- Begin your Kabul exploration with Bibi Mahro Hill, home to the famous Afghan flag and offering panoramic views of Kabul.
- Continue to Mandawi Bazaar and the Bird Market, followed by a walk around Pul-e-Khishti Mosque, Nadir Pashtun Wat, Chahar Chatta Bazaar, and Pul-e-Bagh-e-Omumi. Experience the atmosphere of Kabul, meet local people, and observe everyday life and traditions.
- The day concludes with a visit to the historic Shah-Do-Shamshira Mosque, associated with an early legend concerning the arrival of Islam in Kabul.
- Overnight: Kabul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 2: Kabul to Ghazni | Ancient Ghaznavid Heritage

- After breakfast, depart Kabul for Ghazni on a scenic road journey of approximately three hours.
- Ghazni was an important Buddhist center during the 7th century and later became the magnificent capital of the powerful Ghaznavid Empire.
- Upon arrival, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities and begin exploring the city.
- Visit the historic Minarets of Ghazni, commissioned during the Ghaznavid period, and explore Bala Hesar Citadel,

overlooking the old city.

- Walk around the traditional areas surrounding the citadel, where historic mud-brick houses, local shops, and bazaars continue to reflect the character of old Ghazni.

- Overnight: Ghazni

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 3: Ghazni to Kandahar | Journey Through Southern Afghanistan

- After breakfast, continue your road journey from Ghazni to Kandahar, approximately six hours.

- The route takes you through Zabul Province, offering opportunities to observe traditional villages, mud-brick houses, local bazaars, mosques, and the landscapes of southern Afghanistan.

- Several stops will be made along the way for photography, refreshments, and lunch.

- Upon arrival in Kandahar, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities.

- Spend the remaining time exploring Kandahar, meeting local people, and experiencing the city's unique culture and daily life.

- Overnight: Kandahar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 4: Explore Kandahar | The Cradle of the Durrani Empire

- After breakfast, begin a full day of sightseeing in Kandahar.

- Explore the historic Char Suq, the old bazaar where four principal market streets meet at the center of the city. Discover traditional shops, markets, handicrafts, and the atmosphere of old Kandahar.

- Continue to Shahidanu Chawk (Martyrs' Square) before visiting important historical and religious landmarks.

- Visit the Shrine of the Cloak of the Prophet, one of Kandahar's most significant religious sites.

- Continue to the Mausoleum of Ahmad Shah Durrani, founder of the Durrani Empire and a central figure in Afghanistan's modern history.

- Visit the Tomb of Mirwais Hotak, the influential Ghilzai leader associated with Kandahar's independence from Persian rule in 1709.

- Explore Chihilzina (Forty Steps), a historic rock-cut site overlooking the Kandahar plain, featuring inscriptions relating to the Mughal conquest.

- The day concludes with a visit to the historic Red Mosque.

- Overnight: Kandahar

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 5: Kandahar to Herat | Across Western Afghanistan

- After breakfast, depart Kandahar for Herat on an approximately eight-hour overland journey.

- Travel through Helmand and Farah Provinces, experiencing the changing landscapes of southern and western Afghanistan.

- Along the way, make several stops at scenic locations for photography, refreshments, and lunch.

- Arrive in Herat in the evening and transfer to your hotel.

- Overnight: Herat

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 6: Explore Herat | City of Culture & Silk Road Heritage

- After breakfast, complete the required registration with the tourism authorities before beginning your Herat city tour.

- Visit the magnificent Masjid-e-Jami (Friday Mosque), one of Afghanistan's greatest architectural treasures and a masterpiece of Islamic art and architecture.

- Explore the historic old city of Herat and discover the cultural heritage of the city's diverse communities, including the historic Jewish quarter and its remaining religious and architectural sites, where accessible.

- Continue through the traditional Caravanserais around Chahar Suq, once important stopping points along the historic Silk Road.
 - Visit the spectacular Musalla Complex, commissioned during the Timurid period under Queen Gawhar Shad, wife of Shah Rukh.
 - Explore the historic Citadel of Herat, traditionally associated with Alexander the Great and later developed into its present form through successive Afghan and regional dynasties.
 - Continue to the shrine of Khwaja Abdullah Ansari, the celebrated Sufi poet, scholar, and philosopher associated with Herat.
 - Inside the complex, see the remarkable Haft Qalam Stone (Seven Pens Stone), an intricately crafted black-marble sarcophagus dating from the Timurid period.
 - Overnight: Herat
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 7: Herat to Kabul by Flight | Kabul to Bamyan

- After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Kabul.
 - Upon arrival, enjoy lunch in Kabul before beginning the overland journey toward Bamyan.
 - The approximately four-hour drive takes you through spectacular mountain landscapes and the fascinating Hajigak Pass, reaching approximately 3,700 meters above sea level.
 - Enjoy several stops at scenic viewpoints and rest areas for photography and refreshments before continuing to Bamyan.
 - Arrive in Bamyan and check in to your hotel.
 - Overnight: Bamyan
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Transport: Private ground transport; domestic flight arrangements and cost to be confirmed

Day 8: Bamyan & Band-e-Amir | UNESCO Heritage & Natural Wonders

- After breakfast, complete the required registration with the provincial tourism authorities and begin exploring Bamyan.
 - Visit the Bamiyan Valley, home to the monumental niches of the famous Buddha Statues, recognized as part of the UNESCO World Heritage landscape. The Great Buddha was approximately 55 meters high, while the Small Buddha measured approximately 38 meters. Both statues were destroyed in 2001, while their historic niches remain important symbols of Afghanistan's cultural heritage.
 - Continue to the ruins of Gholghola City, also known as the City of Screams, an ancient fortified settlement associated with the Ghaznavid period and later destroyed during the Mongol invasion.
 - In the afternoon, travel to Band-e-Amir National Park, Afghanistan's spectacular natural landmark famous for its deep-blue lakes surrounded by dramatic cliffs.
 - Enjoy hiking, sightseeing, photography, and the peaceful mountain environment before returning to Bamyan.
 - Overnight: Bamyan
- Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 9: Bamyan to Kabul | Historical Kabul

- After breakfast, depart Bamyan for Kabul.
- Along the way, visit the ruins of Zuhak (Red City), an ancient fortress overlooking the valley. The site is traditionally associated with the early medieval period and was later destroyed during the Mongol invasion.
- Continue to Kabul and enjoy lunch upon arrival.
- In the afternoon, visit Bagh-e-Babur (Babur's Garden), the historic Mughal garden established by Emperor Babur.
- Continue to Bala Hissar, the historic high fortress overlooking Kabul and one of the city's most significant defensive sites.
- The final visit of the day is Ziarat-e-Sakhi (Sakhi Shrine), an important religious and cultural landmark in Kabul.
- Overnight: Kabul

Meals: Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Transport: Private 4WD vehicle; walking as described

Day 10: Kabul Shopping & Departure

- After breakfast, enjoy your final opportunity to explore Kabul, depending on your flight schedule.
- Visit Chicken Street, one of Kabul's most famous traditional shopping destinations. Browse a wide selection of Afghan handicrafts and souvenirs, including handmade carpets and rugs, gemstones, calligraphy, miniature artworks, antiques, decorative pieces, and traditional crafts.
- Enjoy lunch before our professional team transfers you to Kabul International Airport for your return flight.
- After an unforgettable 10-day journey through the cultural and historical heartlands of Afghanistan, filled with ancient heritage, remarkable landscapes, local traditions, and memorable experiences, your tour with Nawi Saadi Travel & Tourism comes to an end.
- Departure: Kabul International Airport

Meals: Breakfast & Lunch

Transport: Private ground transport; domestic flight arrangements and cost to be confirmed

INCLUDED

- Accommodation: 3-4 Star Hotels
- Transportation: Private 4WD Vehicles
- Meals: 3 Daily Meals + Drinking Water
- Professional Tour Guide
- All Required Permits
- Letter of Invitation
- Entrance Fees to Listed Attractions
- Local SIM Card & Wi-Fi

NOT INCLUDED

- Visa Fees
- International Flights
- Personal Expenses, Shopping, Soft Drinks & Snacks
- Travel Insurance

GOOD TO KNOW

Season & group size

Spring and summer departures, with a maximum of 8 travellers. Dates and departure availability are confirmed by the Kabul team.

Price & booking

Advertised starting price: USD 1,599 per person. Request a written quotation for your dates, group and room arrangements. International flights, visa fees, insurance and personal expenses are excluded.

Domestic flights

Where a domestic flight appears in the itinerary, its schedule, availability and inclusion in the final price must be confirmed with the Kabul office before booking.

Permits & access

The package includes a letter of invitation and required local permits. Site visits, road journeys and activities remain subject to permissions, local access, weather and operating conditions. Confirm the final route before booking.

Accommodation & connectivity

Packages are based on 3-4-star hotels. Hotel names, room occupancy and availability are confirmed in your quotation. Local SIM and Wi-Fi access depend on coverage and availability.

FLIGHTS, AND CHANGING ANYTHING ON THIS ITINERARY

Flights are quoted on request. We hold IATA accreditation and can ticket any airline from Dubai alongside this itinerary.

Every itinerary here is a starting point. We rebuild any of it around your own dates, hotels, pace and budget, for couples, families or groups.

Prices are a lead-in fare and move with the season, the airline and the hotel chosen. Tell us your dates and we will confirm a firm quotation.

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